

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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R 251205Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4630

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USUN NEW YORK 2901

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0643

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, ICRC, PDIP, WMO, AU

SUBJ: AUSTRIA AND PRG ISSUE AT VARIOUS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

REFS: (A) STATE 8673, (B) STATE 10509,

(C) STATE 12513, (D) STATE 14506

1. I USED OCCASION OF CALL ON FORNMIN BIELKA JAN. 24
ON OTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS WITH HIM OUR CONCERN
OVER PRG ISSUE BEING RAISED AT VARIOUS UPCOMING
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. IN ACCORD WITH INSTRUCTIONS
CONTAINED REFTELS, I REVIEWED WITH HIM VARIOUS
LEGAL AND POLITICAL ARGUMENTS FOR OUR OPPOSITION TO
PRG PARTICIPATION IN SUCH CONFERENCES AND EXPRESSED
HOPE THAT AUSTRIA WOULD SUPPORT THIS POSITION BY VOTING
AGAINST ANY INVITATIONS TO PRG. AS SUGGESTED
REFTELS, I GAVE BIELKA COPY OF TEXT OF JANUARY 11 US
NOTE TO MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM.

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2. BIELKA SAID ON SUBJECT OF LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

THAT AUSTRIA WAS OF SAME MIND AS US, NAMELY, THAT QUESTION OF PRG PARTICIPATION HAD ALREADY BEEN DECIDED AT FIRST SESSION. AUSTRIA WOULD THEREFORE VOTE IN FAVOR OF APPLICATION OF RULE 32 AND SUPPORT CHAIR IF LATTER CHALLENGED ON ITS RULING. BIELKA WENT ON THAT IF PRG PARTICIPATION THEN PUT TO VOTE, AUSTRIA WOULD ABSTAIN AS IT HAD DONE IN FIRST SESSION. IN PLEA FOR USG UNDERSTANDING FOR AUSTRIA'S POSITION, BIELKA NOTED THAT BOTH SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND -- TWO OTHER EUROPEAN NEUTRALS WHOSE FOREIGN POLICY DECISIONS SOMETIMES SERVE AS BELLWETHERS FOR AUSTRIA -- HAVE SOMEWHAT COMPLICATED SITUATION FOR AUSTRIA IN REGARD PRG BY THEIR RECENT ACTIONS: SWEDEN IN BREAKING RELATIONS WITH SAIGON AND SWITZERLAND IN ALLOWING OPENING OF PRG "HUMANITARIAN" OFFICE IN GENEVA. I SUGGESTED TO BIELKA THAT SWEDEN'S HANDLING OF THE VIETNAM QUESTION OVER THE YEARS WAS HARDLY AN EXAMPLE FOR AUSTRIA TO FOLLOW, A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE CONCURRED. I ALSO REMINDED HIM THAT IN CASE OF GENEVA PRG OFFICE, WE HAD STRONGLY OBJECTED TO MOVE BOTH IN NEW YORK AND IN BERN AND WOULD CONTINUE TO OPPOSE EFFORTS TO UPGRADE POLITICAL STATUS OF PRG ABROAD.

3. AS FOR OTHER CONFERENCES, BIELKA INDICATED THAT AUSTRIA TOO WAS DISTURBED ABOUT MISUSE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCES, E.G., UPCOMING WHO CONFERENCE, FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES AND WOULD ABSTAIN ON OBSERVER STATUS FOR PRG IF ISSUE RAISED. DECISION ON ABSTENTION WAS, BIELKA SAID, IN LINE WITH GENERAL AUSTRIAN POSITION TO ABSTAIN ON SUCH ISSUES BEFORE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

4. RE UPCOMING CONFERENCE ON REPRESENTATION OF STATES IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BIELKA SAID THAT AUSTRIA, AS HOST, WOULD BE GUIDED BY GENERAL PRACTICE RE SUCH CONFERENCES, NAMELY PARTICIPANTS TO CONFERENCE TO DECIDE ULTIMATELY WHO WOULD PARTICIPATE AND FOLLOWING SWISS EXAMPLE, HOST GOVERNMENT ABSTAIN ON CONTROVERSIAL INVITATIONS. HUMES

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